



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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**18 VAC 90-20 – Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing**  
**Department of Health Professions**  
May 4, 2009

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Board of Nursing (Board) proposes to amend its Regulations Governing the Practice of Nursing to allow nurses who are applying for licensure by endorsement to use clinical hours accrued after licensure in another U.S. jurisdiction to meet Board licensure requirements.

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for this proposed change.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Currently, nurses who have been licensed by examination in another U.S. jurisdiction may apply for licensure by endorsement in Virginia so long as they satisfy all requirements for initial licensure set by the Board. Currently, candidates for initial licensure by the Board must have completed an educational program that includes 400 hours of clinical experience for practical nurses and 500 hours of clinical experience for registered nurses. The Board proposes to amend the rules to allow individuals who did not graduate from a program that included the requisite clinical hours to apply for licensure by endorsement so long as they have accrued at least 960 hours of post-licensure clinical experience and have an active, unencumbered license in another U.S. jurisdiction.

This change will likely benefit nurses who are licensed in other jurisdictions as it will allow a greater number of them to qualify for licensure by endorsement in Virginia. If this change increases the number of nurses who apply for licensure in the Commonwealth, facilities that employ nurses and patients may also benefit. Facilities will benefit from having a larger pool

of nurses from which to hire their employees. Patients may benefit if this change eases the nursing shortage that likely has had an adverse impact on patient care.

### **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The Department of Health Professions (DHP) reports that the Board currently licenses 5,200 registered nurses and 784 licensed practical nurses. This change will affect any nurses who currently do not qualify for licensure by endorsement but will qualify under these proposed regulations.

### **Localities Particularly Affected**

No locality will be particularly affected by this proposed regulatory action.

### **Projected Impact on Employment**

This regulatory action may increase the number of individuals who are employed as nurses in the Commonwealth.

### **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

This regulatory action will likely have no substantial effect on the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

### **Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects**

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

### **Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact**

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

### **Real Estate Development Costs**

This regulatory action will likely have no effect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

### **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act

and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.